


BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address): Frontier North Inc. 2378 Wilshire Boulevard Mound, MN 55364	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.		
	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov		
	Date: March 17, 2022		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>			
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>			
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print) Scott Bohler	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Title Manager, Government and External Affairs </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Phone (952) 491-5534 </td> </tr> </table>	Title Manager, Government and External Affairs	Phone (952) 491-5534
Title Manager, Government and External Affairs	Phone (952) 491-5534		
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date March 17, 2022		

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Frontier North Inc.	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$4,293,662
Federal Employer Identification No. 35-1869961	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$13,140,988
Contact Name and Title Scott Bohler Manager, Government and External Affairs	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$17,434,650
Telephone Number (952) 491-5534	Project Name Marathon County Project
E-mail Address(es) Scott.bohler@ftr.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant Same as Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last mile
Grant Manager Contact Name Same as Primary Applicant	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number Same as Primary Applicant
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations The project is a public-private partnership between Frontier North and Marathon County. Frontier North Inc.: 2378 Wilshire Boulevard, Mound, MN 55364, 35-1869961 Marathon County: County of Marathon, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403, 39-6005716 Town of Harrison: 183945 Bear Lake Road, Aniwa, WI 54408, 39-1570706 Town of Frankfort: 114488 County Rd N Edgar, WI 54426 Town of Ringle: 223207 Abt Road, Wausau, WI 54471, 39-6060084	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) The proposed project will deploy fiber to the home network to 10,626 locations within Marathon County. The new facilities will allow Frontier to offer broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed Up to 2 Gig	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed Up to 2 Gig
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location
County or Counties served by this project Marathon County	Community or Communities served by this project Portions of 25 Villages or Towns will be served.

<p>List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve</p> <p>All of the locations are categorized as “unserved” or “underserved” by the PSC.</p>	
<p>Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).</p> <p>812</p>	<p>For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).</p> <p>9,884</p>
<p>Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i>?</p> <p>755.</p>	<p>Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i>?</p> <p>9,289</p>
<p>For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing’s Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) No</p>
<p>Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission’s voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2012? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes.</p>	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Frontier North Inc.	Marathon County

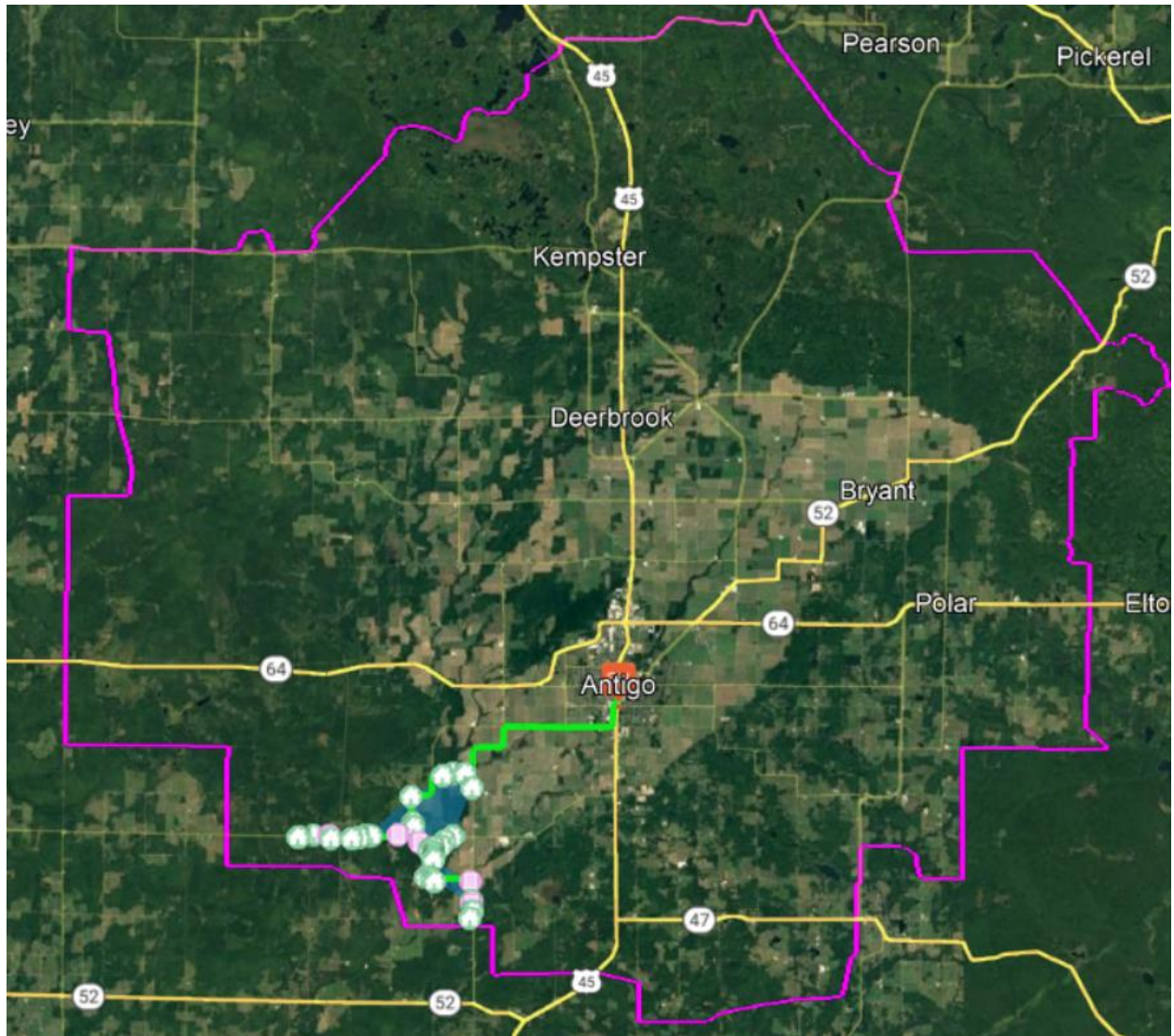
Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 4,050,463.62	\$ 12,396,666.02	\$ 16,447,129.64
2	Equipment	\$ 139,943.32	\$ 428,304.21	\$ 568,247.53
3	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 28,403.05	\$ 86,929.08	\$ 115,332.13
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 74,852.01	\$ 229,088.69	\$ 303,940.70
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 4,293,662.00	\$ 13,140,988.00	\$ 17,434,650.00
		75.4% match requested		

Pledged Contributions

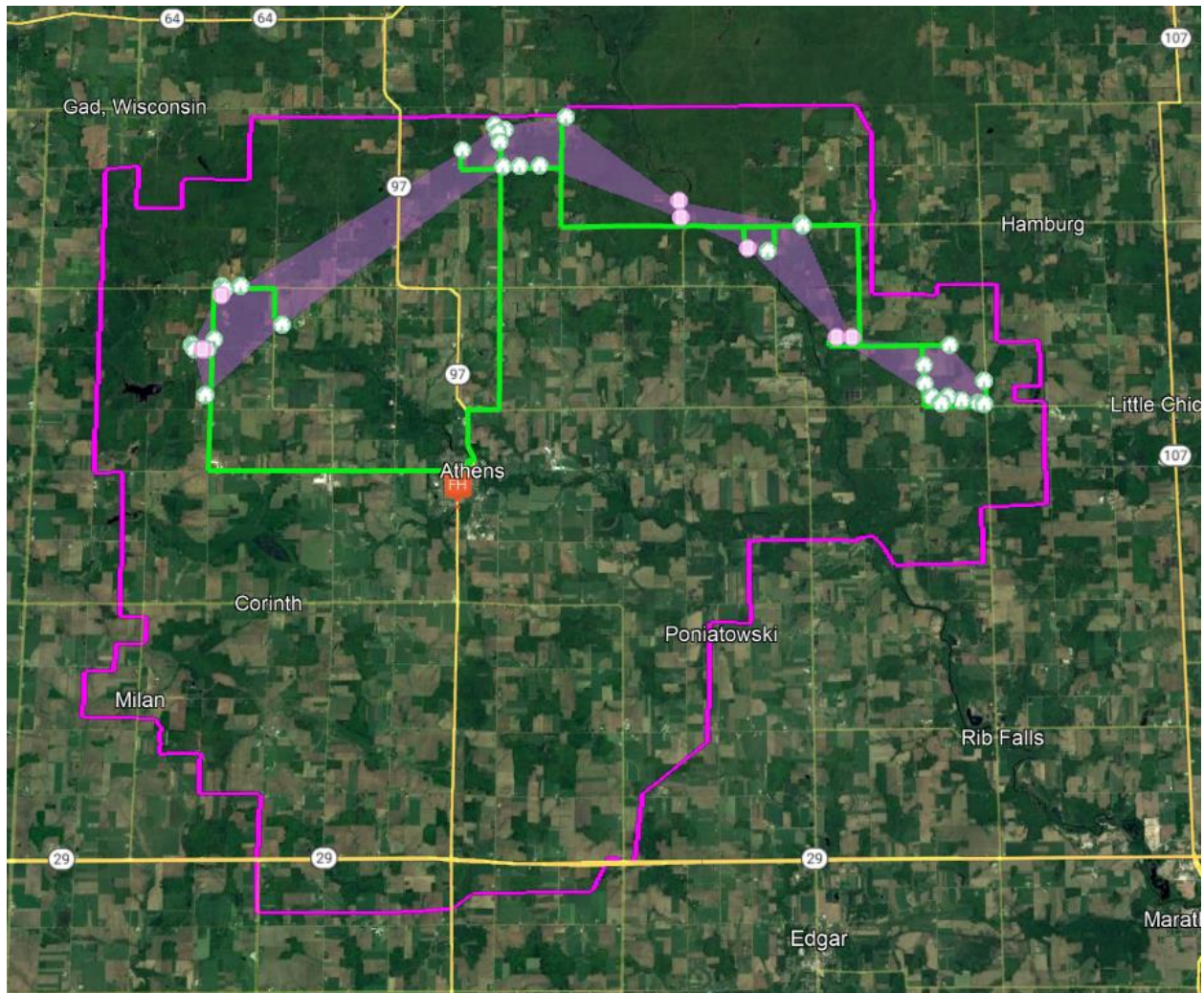
#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Frontier North Inc.	Applicant	Cash	\$ 12,131,153.00
2	County of Marathon	Partner	Cash	\$ 944,835.00
3	Town of Frankfort	Partner	Cash	\$ 50,000.00
4	Town of Harrison	Partner	Cash	\$ 15,000.00
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 13,140,988.00

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home ("FTTH") facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 71 unserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier's Antigo exchange. There are 7 businesses and 64 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Antigo Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



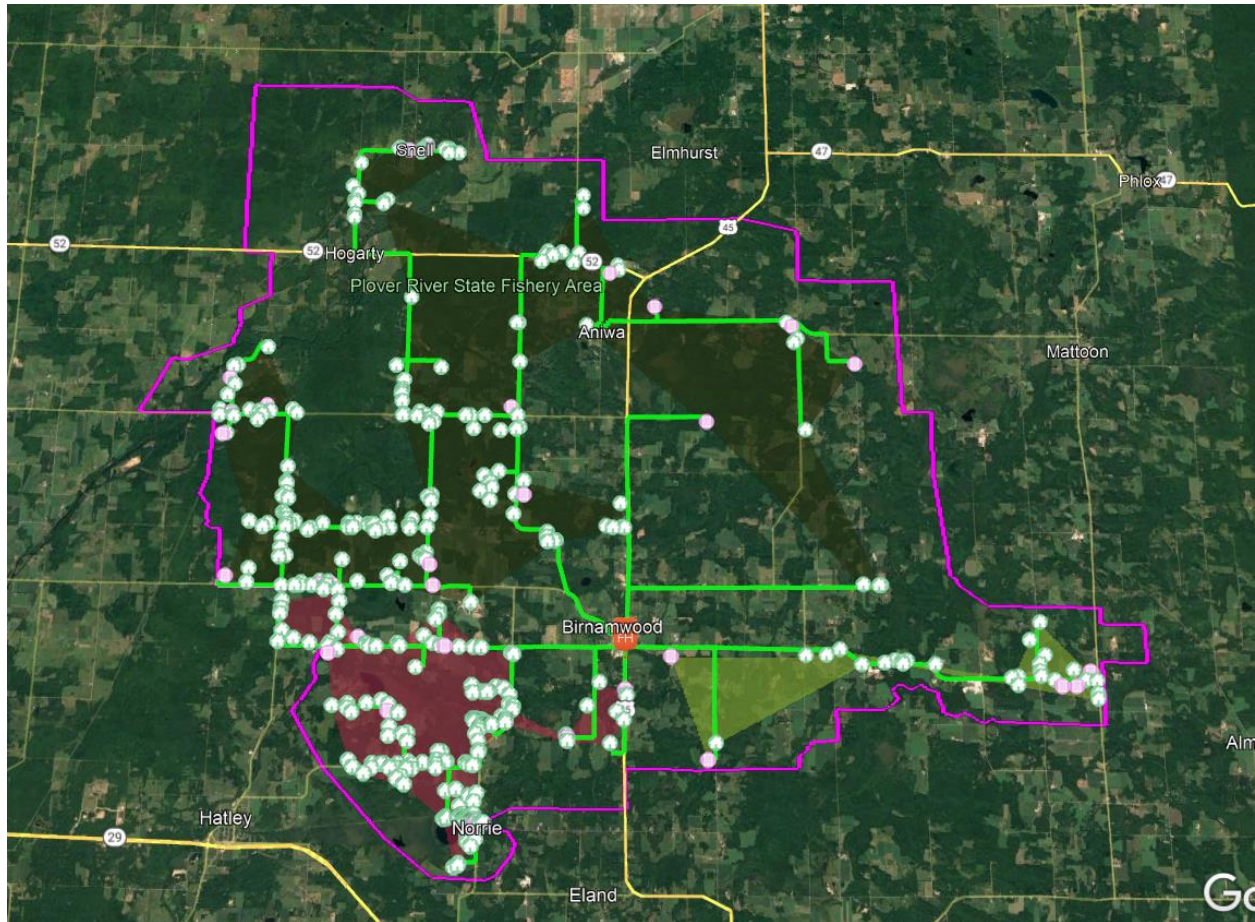
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Antigo central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home ("FTTH") facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 60 unserved customer locations and 2 underserved customer locations in Frontier's Athens exchange. There are 7 businesses and 55 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Athens Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



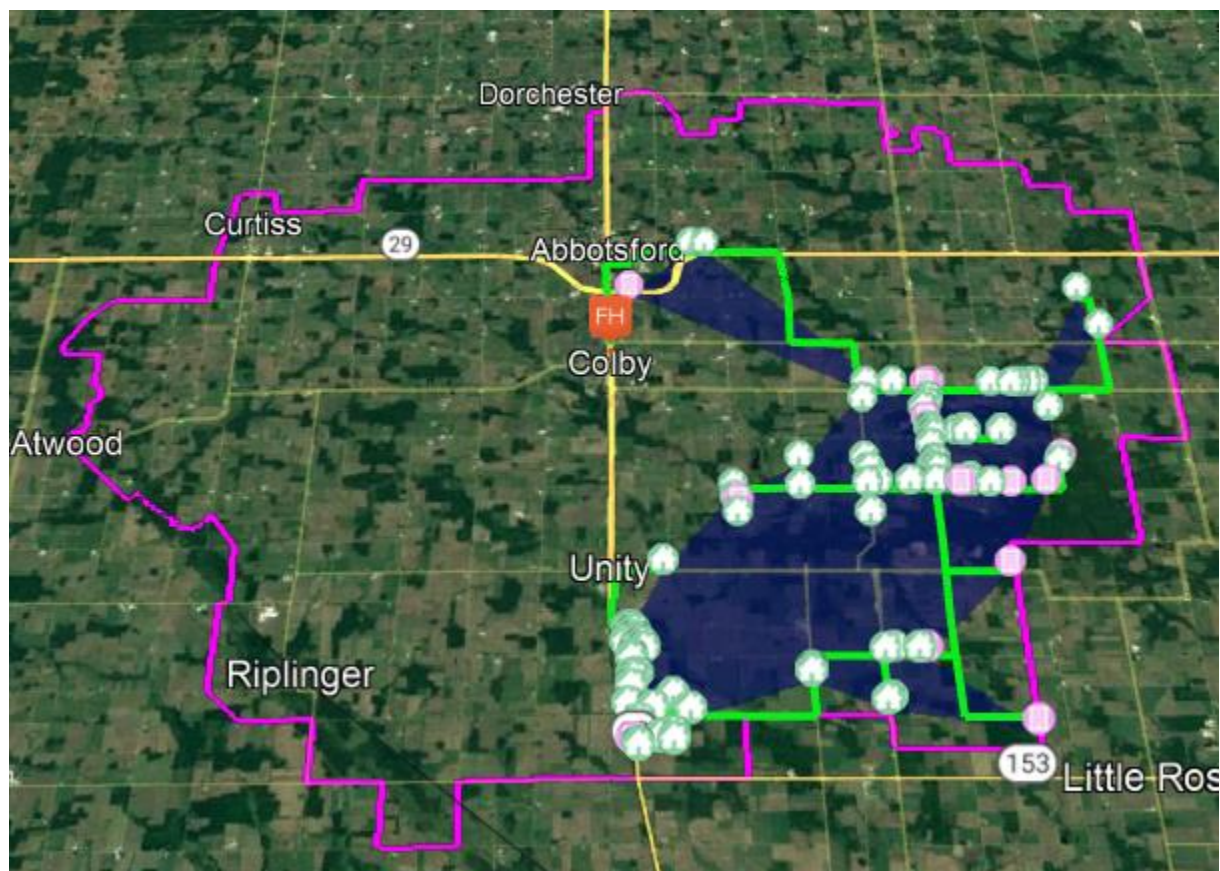
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Athens central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 154 unserved customer locations and 488 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Birnamwood exchange. There are 24 businesses and 618 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Birnamwood Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



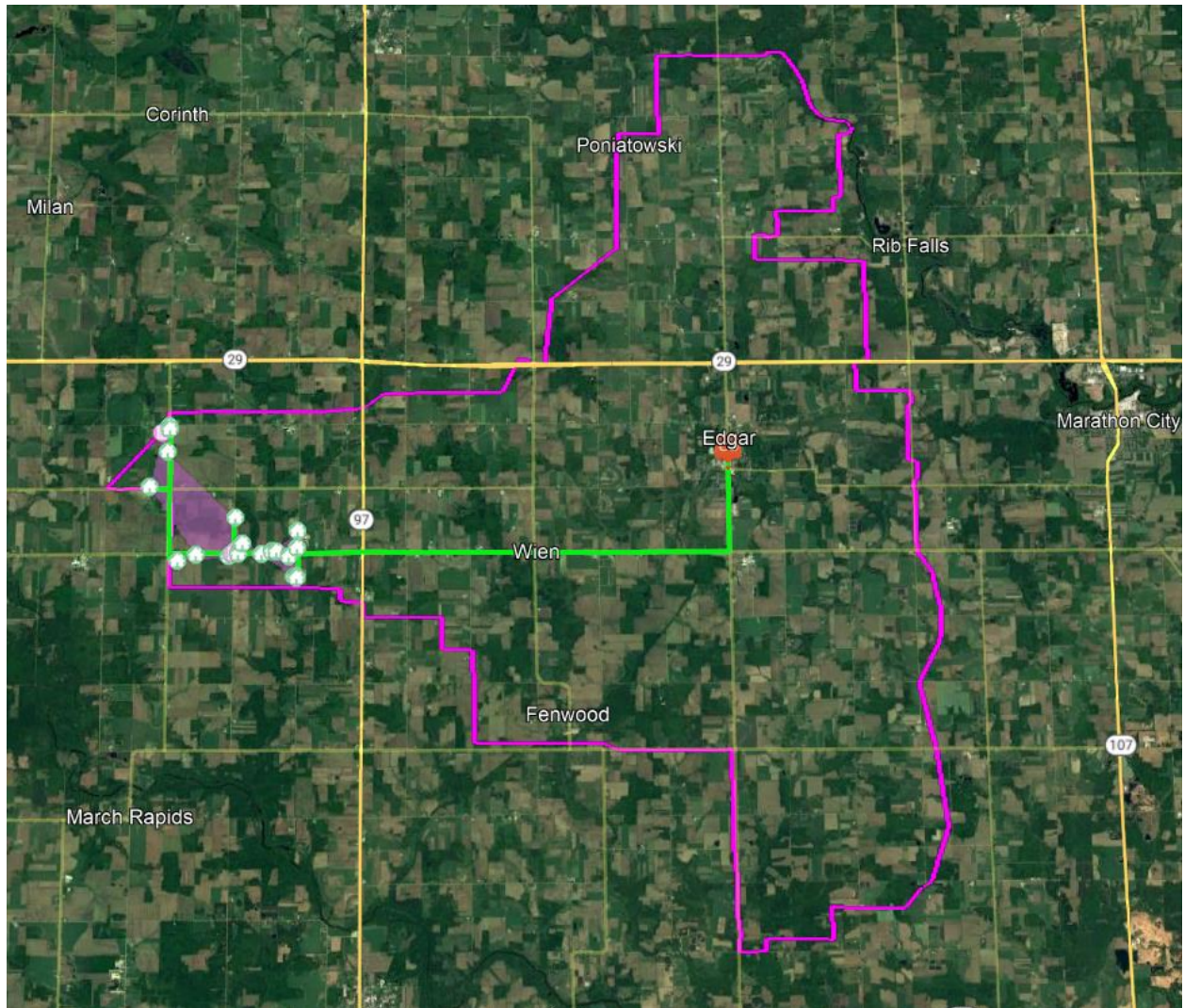
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 172 unserved customer locations and 8 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Colby exchange. There are 23 businesses and 157 residential customer locations in that group. This project places approximately 22 miles of middle mile fiber to connect the Colby and Athens exchanges. Middle mile fiber will provide broadband speeds that are scalable for the next 30 years to these rural cities. There are no restrictions that may limit the availability or interconnection with the middle mile route. Frontier will have 72 middle mile fiber strands reserved for public use. The map below illustrates coverage from the Colby Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



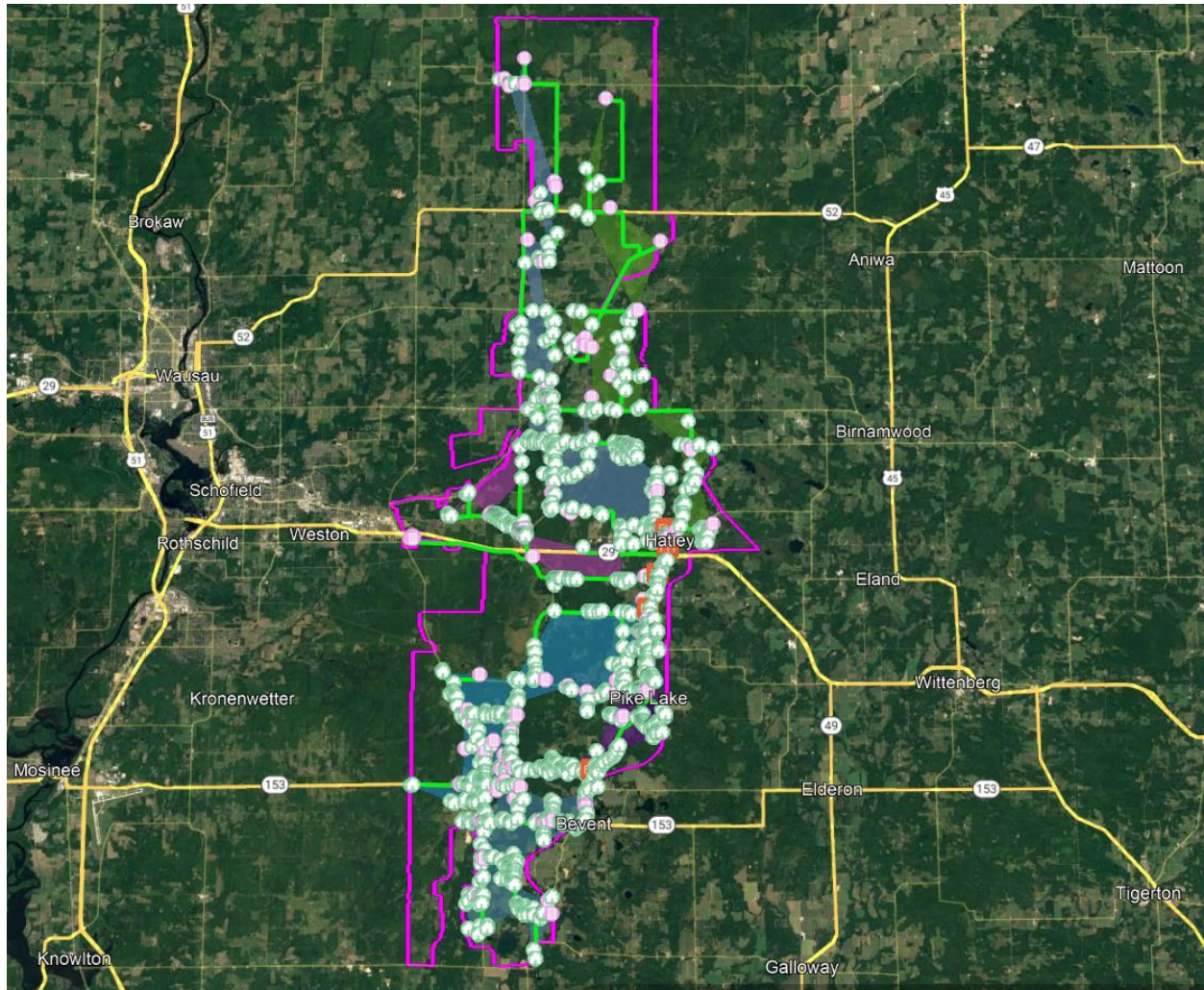
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Colby central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 9 unserved customer locations and 34 underserved customer locations in the Edgar exchange. There are 2 businesses and 41 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Edgar Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



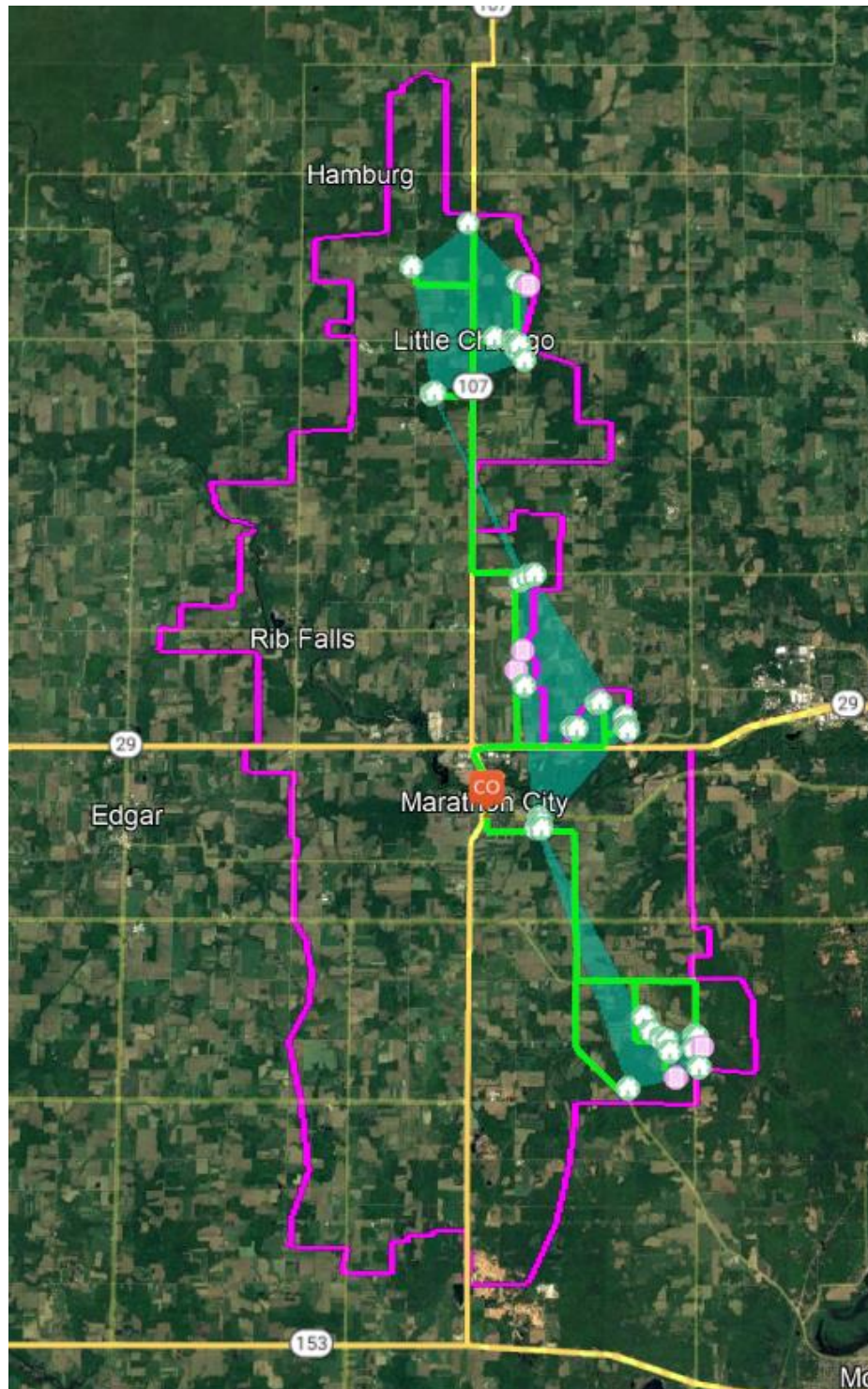
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 1588 unserved customer locations and 97 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Hatley exchange. There are 94 businesses and 1591 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Hatley Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



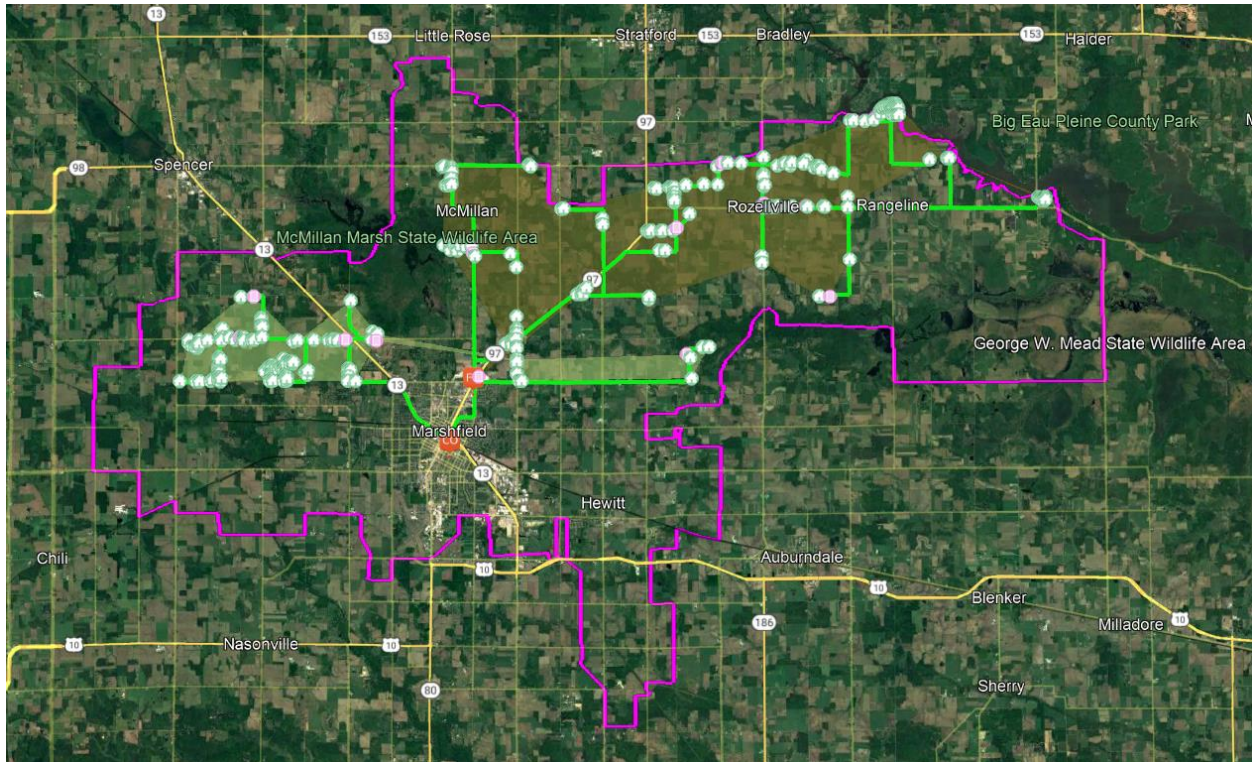
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Hatley central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 15 unserved customer locations and 66 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Marathon City exchange. There are 5 businesses and 76 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Marathon City Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



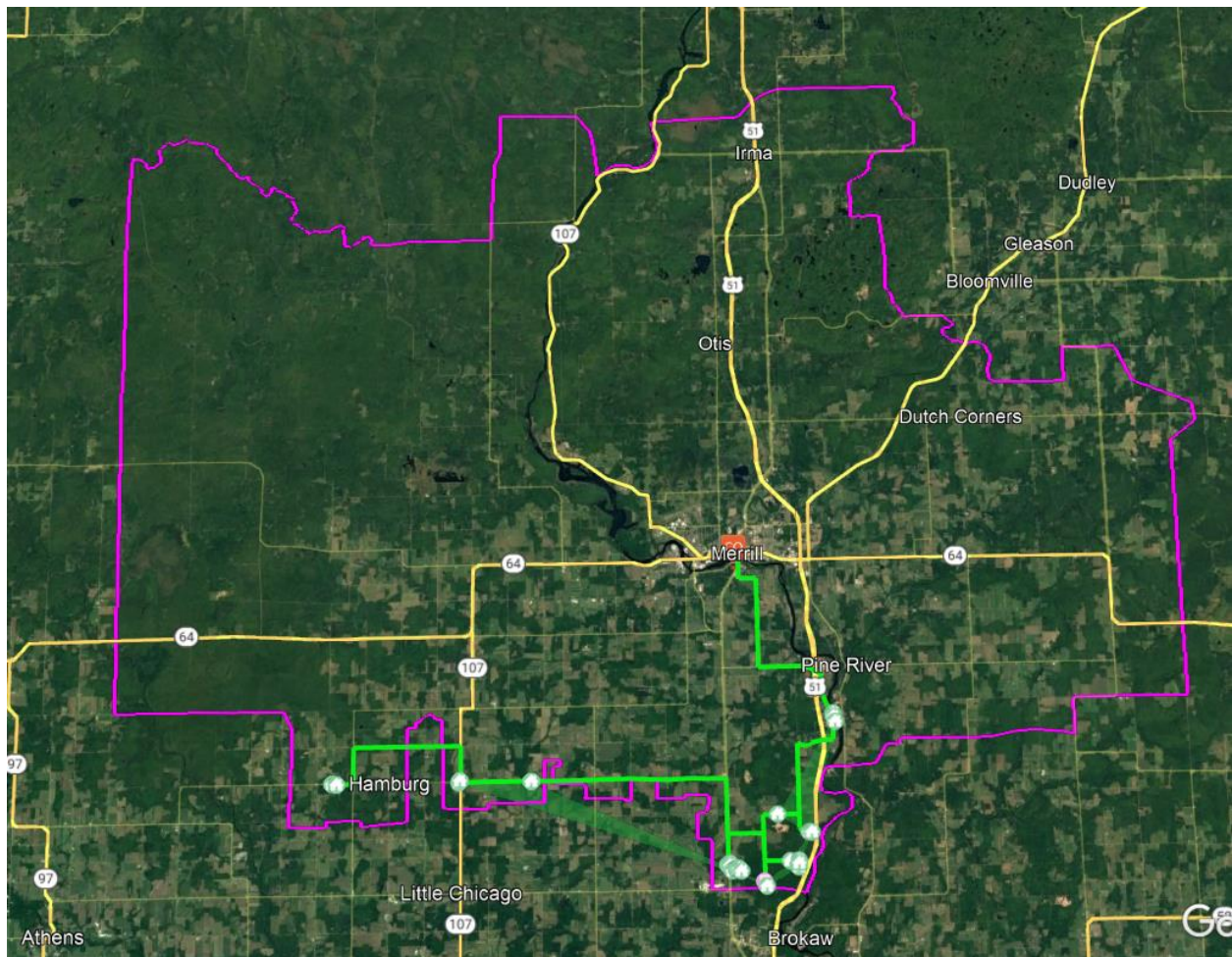
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 77 unserved customer locations and 483 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Marshfield exchange. There are 17 businesses and 543 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Marshfield Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



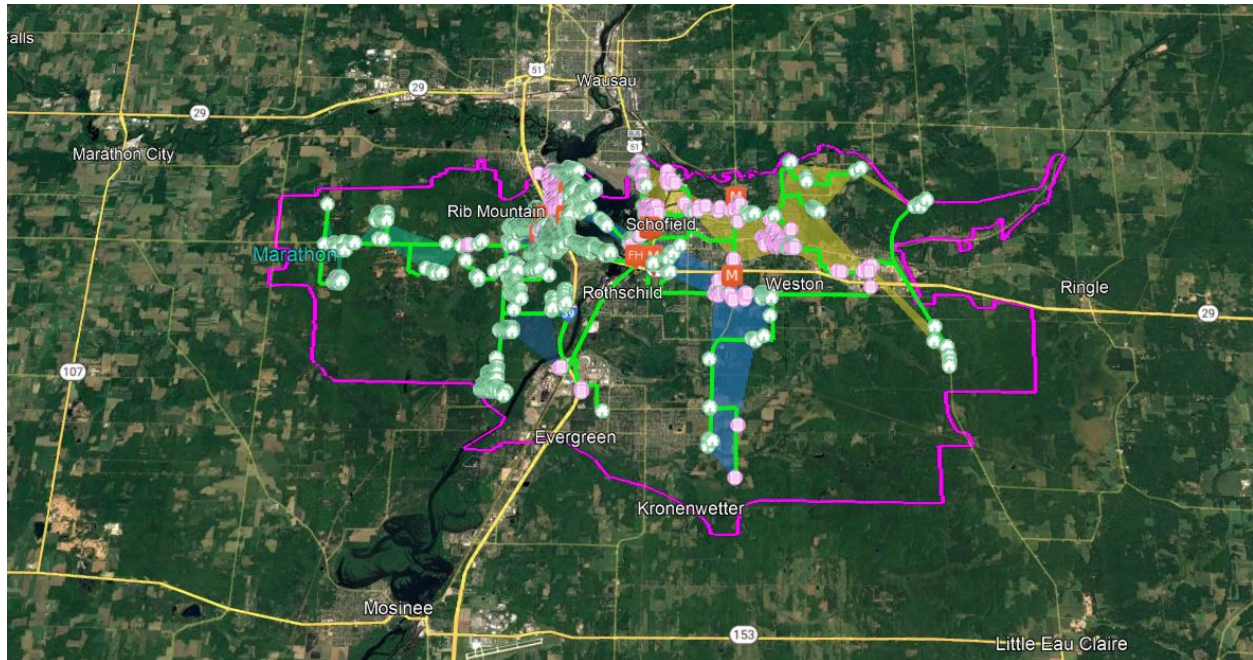
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 31 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Merrill exchange. There are 1 business and 30 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Merrill Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



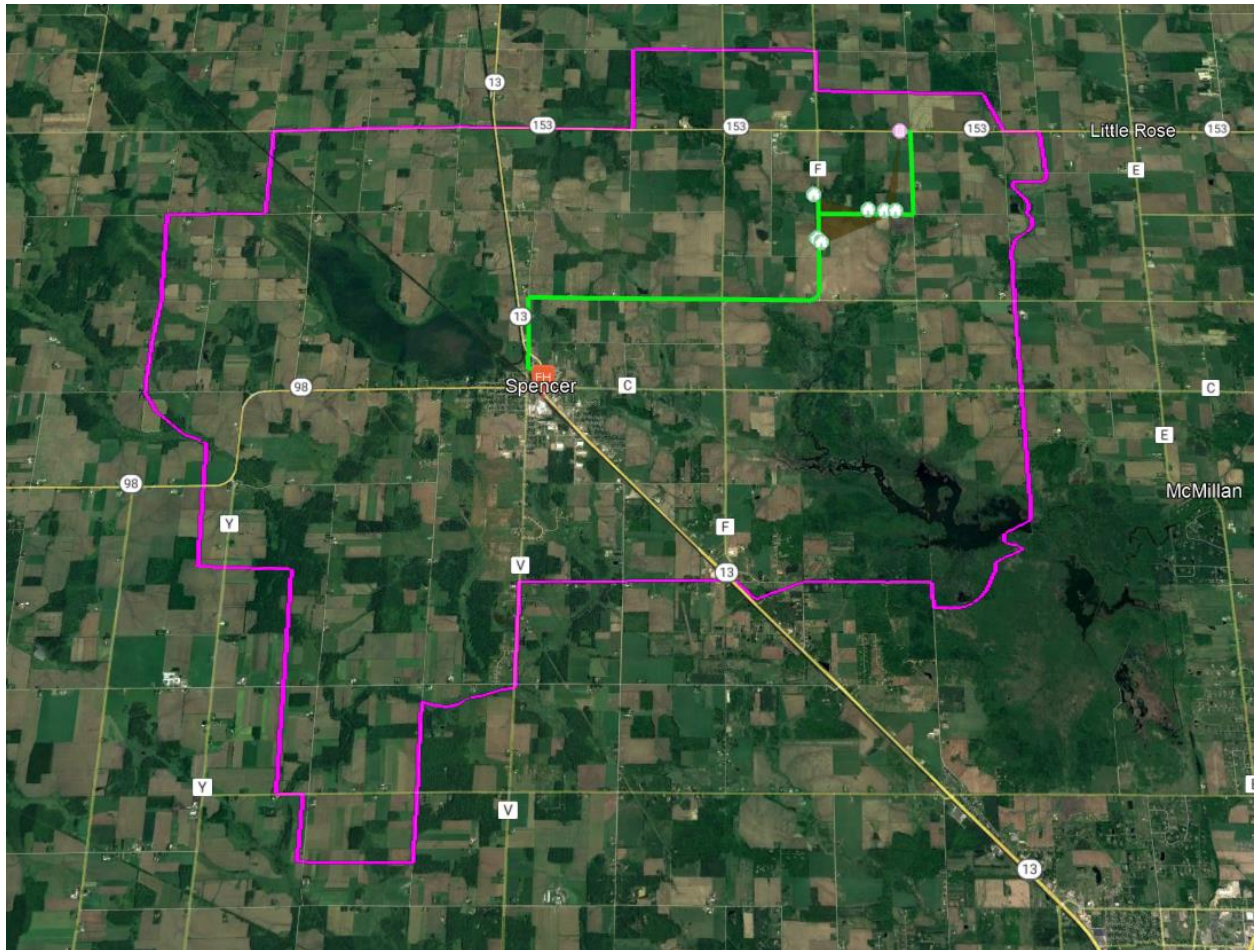
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Merrill (Marathon) Central Office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 2660 unserved customer locations and 14 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Schofield exchange. There are 338 businesses and 2336 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Schofield Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



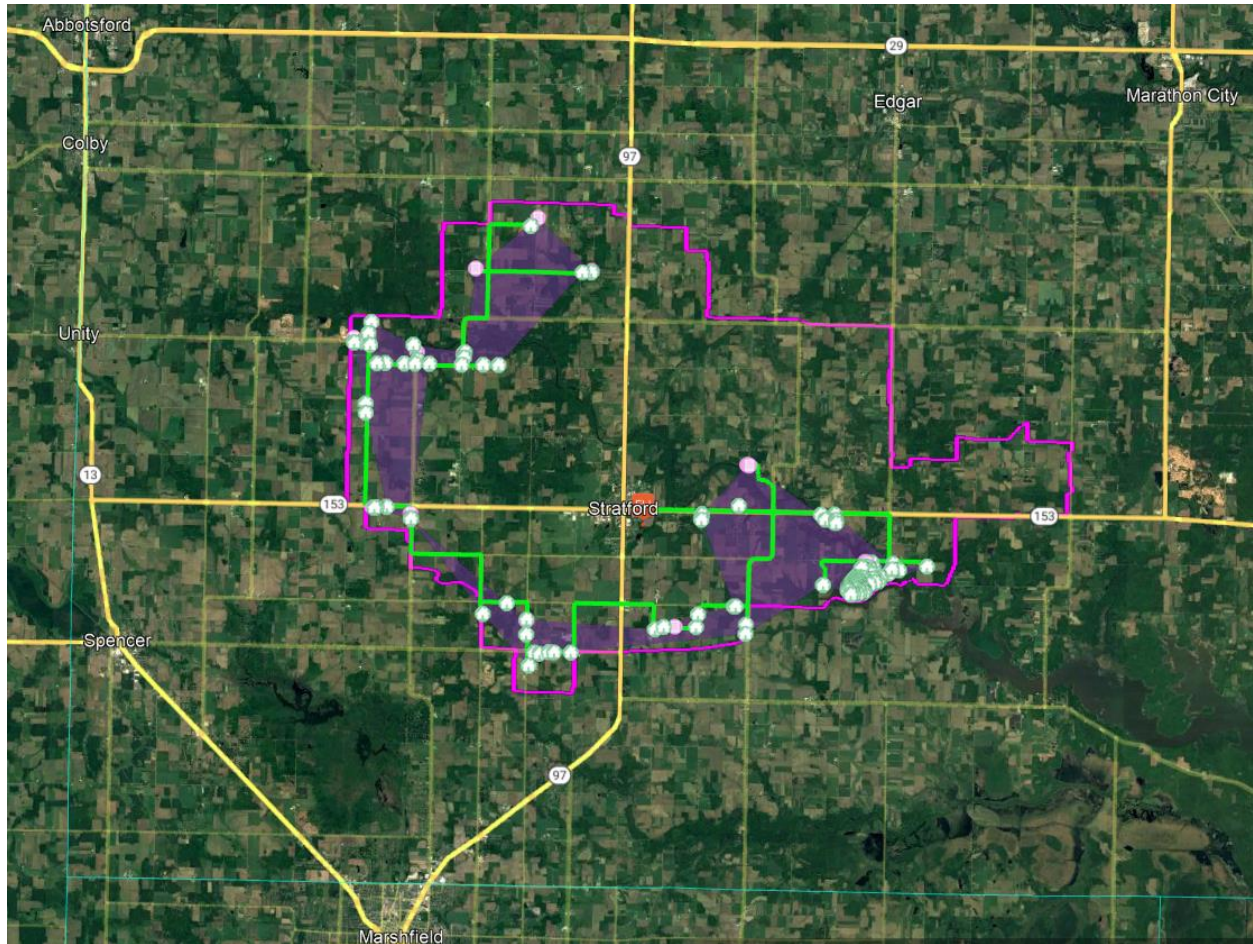
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Schofield central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 13 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Spencer exchange. There are 1 business and 12 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Spencer Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



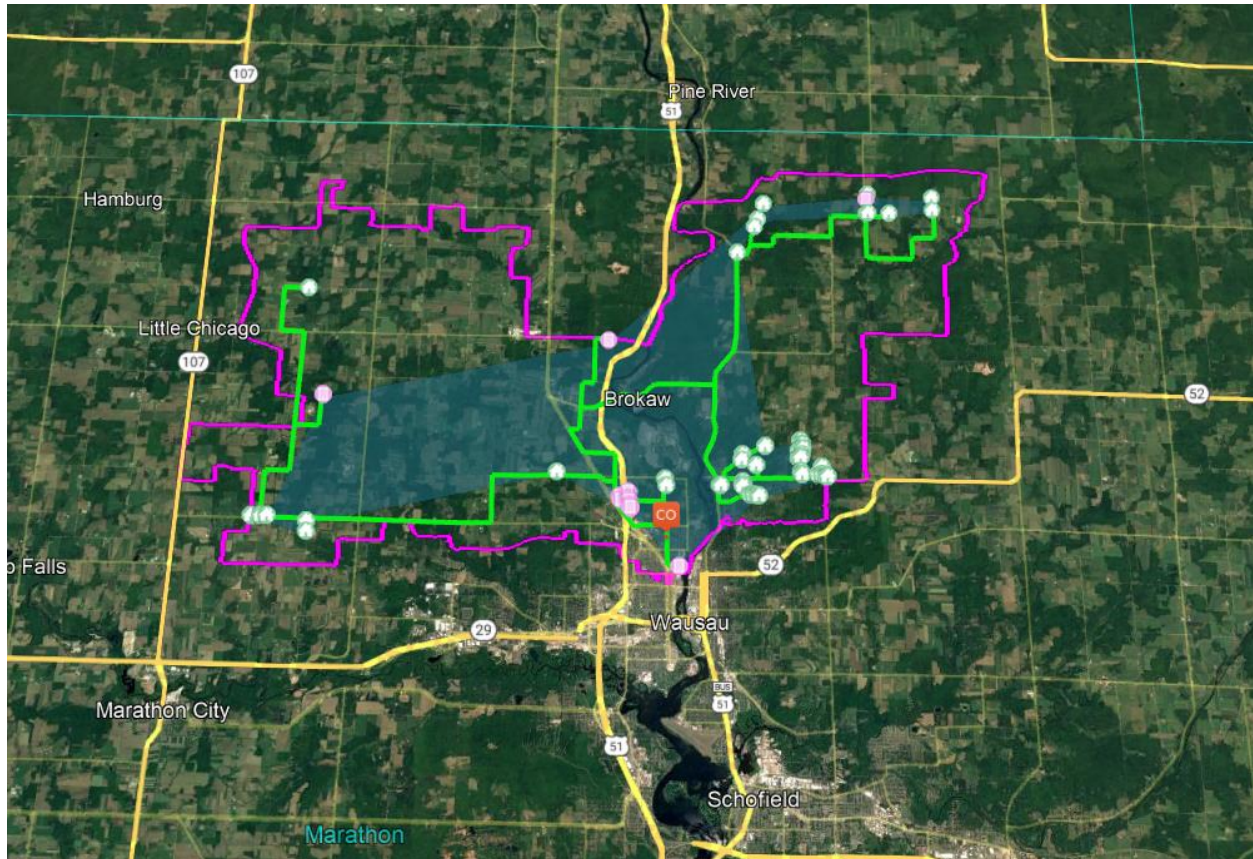
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Spencer central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 264 unserved customer locations and 20 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Stratford exchange. There are 21 businesses and 263 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Stratford Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



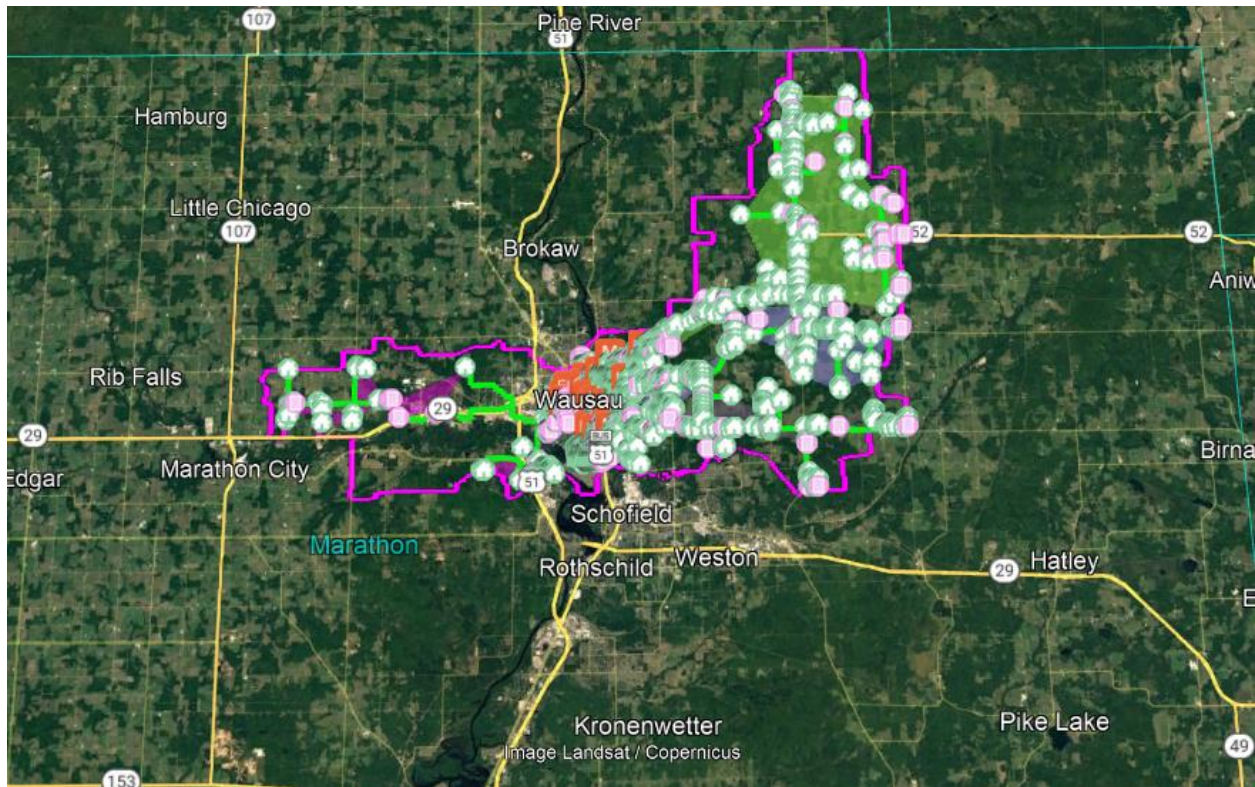
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Stratford central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 99 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Wausau Northwest exchange area. There are 13 businesses and 86 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Wausau Northwest Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Wausau Northwest central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 4236 unserved customer locations and 35 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Wausau exchange. There are 259 businesses and 4012 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Wausau Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Wausau central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

3.2 Mandatory application requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

- a. Applicant is Frontier North Inc. Contact person is:
Scott Bohler
2378 Wilshire Boulevard, Mound, MN 55364
(612) 562-7183
scott.bohler@ftr.com
- b. Partnering with Frontier North on this project are:
County of Marathon, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Town of Ringle, 223207 Abt Road, Wausau, WI 54471
Town of Harrison, 183945 Bear Lake Road, Aniwa, WI 54408
Town of Frankfort, 114488 County Rd N Edgar, WI 54426
- c. Frontier North Inc is a telecommunications utility. It has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier by the Public Service Commission for calendar year 2022.

3.2.2 Description of the project

- a. Please see pages 5 and following of this application for maps of the project area. The project will cover a large portion of Marathon County including areas within the following municipalities:

Municipality	Locations
Wausau	6,490
Hatley	1,142
Birnamwood	566
Ringle	492
Stratford	437
Schofield	401
Marshfield	307
Aniwa	168
Marathon	135
Colby	90
Athens	80
Auburndale	74
Antigo	69
Unity	63
Edgar	49
Rosholt	35
Mosinee	34
Spencer	33
Merrill	23
Rothschild	4
Abbotsford	3
Wittenberg	1
Total	10,696

A KML map accompanies this application.

- b. N/A.
- c. The project will serve 9,884 residential locations and 812 business locations. Service at speeds up to 2Gig symmetrical will be available over these new facilities.
- d. The project will be targeting the “last mile” portion of the broadband infrastructure.
- e. The project will deploy a fiber to the home network to the area. The project will provide broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. The project will deploy individual fiber facilities to each customer seeking broadband service. Middle mile transport facilities will be designed and constructed to serve all the customers in the area while maintaining a high level of bandwidth speeds consistent with the service levels to which customers subscribe.
- f. N/A
- g. The project is planned to be completed within 24 months of the award of the grant funding.

3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

- a. All facilities involved in the project will be owned by Frontier.

Cost Detail - MARATHON PROJECT -FTTP	Qty	PRICE
CO Power	14	\$319,200.00
Nokia 7360 FX-8 XGS-PON OLT	14	\$957,600.00
Fiber Distribution Panel (FDP)	14	\$31,920.00
144 Fiber Cable	4,153,931	\$3,406,224.00
288 Fiber Cable	151,453	\$233,237.00
FDH	45	\$157,500.00
FTTH Terminal	3,172	\$348,920.00
Sub-Structure/Pull Boxes	45	\$86,220.00
Site Prep New	45	\$855,000.00
Total Loaded		\$6,395,821.00

- b. Payments made by the State for this grant will be under a reimbursement process. Frontier will provide documentation that the costs being reimbursed are only for construction of new facilities, and not for any on-going operating costs.
- c. Payments made by the State for this grant will be under a reimbursement process. Frontier will provide documentation that the costs being reimbursed are only for construction of new facilities connected with the project.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** Frontier North and project partners will fund approximately 75% of the total project cost of \$17,434,650. Frontier will fund \$12,131,153; Marathon County will fund \$944,835; the Town of Frankfort will fund \$50,000; the Town of Harrison will fund \$15,000.
- b. **Public-private partnerships.** Please see following pages for documentation regarding public-private partnerships:



March 16, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

Marathon County Government would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Frontier project to aid in the economic growth of Marathon County and support the general improvement of our communities through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for Marathon County. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for Marathon County to deliver a wide range of services to our residents, including the ability for our local emergency responders to leverage technology, improving the efficiency and access of our 911 system.

This project will also improve our residents' quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize Marathon County and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The Marathon County/Frontier project provides a unique opportunity for 10,626 households and businesses in Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest Marathon County to access reliable, high-quality fiber broadband service. Marathon County Government fully supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal through expedited permitting. **Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$944,835 if grant funding is awarded.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at kurt.gibbs@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-1409. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Gibbs
Chair, Marathon County Board of Supervisors

Marathon County Board of Supervisors

Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau WI 54403 | P: 715-261-1500

RESOLUTION #R-21 -22

AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS

WHEREAS, broadband access is essential for economic development, virtual and lifetime learning, rural prosperity, and telehealth health services in Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County has recognized the importance of broadband access in ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the county is currently “unserved” and “underserved” in terms of access to reliable and adequate broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the County has recognized the need to play a role in enhancing broadband access to its residents based on the findings and work done in association with the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis, the 2015 Broadband Connectivity Task Force Report, and the 2019 Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine; and

WHEREAS, based on meetings and discussions with Internet Service Providers and evaluating the recommendations of Design Nine the County Board created a Broadband Task Force and charged it with identifying strategies, partners and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has existing opportunities to expand broadband services through a Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of providing forgivable loans to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These forgivable loans would be in the amount of \$235 per unit for each applicant. Each loan would be forgiven upon activation of the broadband system within Marathon County created, expanded, or updated by grant funds. These loans would be provided based upon the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to further assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of making low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose expenditures will exceed \$235 per unit and whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These loans would be for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects; and

WHEREAS, these recommended loans would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and the Marathon County Executive Committee authorize appropriate county officials to act under this resolution to convey County support for and commit County resources to broadband service expansion applications that satisfy the criteria established by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force. County officials are also authorized to work with and support grant applicants through suitable means they have determined to be most advantageous to the interests of Marathon County within the constraints of the Budget approved by the County Board.






NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to provide forgivable loans in the amount of \$235 per unit to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County and as further defined in the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022. The forgivable loan would not exceed \$70,000 for Cirrinity, \$142,175 for Bug Tussel Wireless and \$944,835 for Frontier for a total not to exceed \$1,157,010. The forgivable loans will only be made upon a successful award from the PSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to make available low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects under the terms and conditions as defined by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommended loans are authorized through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

March 15, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

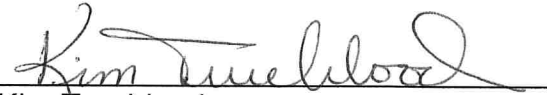
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Fiscal Impact: This resolution would have no immediate fiscal impact; however, it would authorize county officials to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to authorize per unit loans to PSC grant applicants whose projects benefit Marathon County. Provisions of loans under this resolution would have an impact on ARPA funds dependent on the number of applicants and the amounts approved.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Kim Trueblood, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-21-22 was enacted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at the Adjourned Annual Meeting which was held on March 15, 2022.

S E A L



Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk

TOWN OF FRANKFORT, MARATHON COUNTY

March 9, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Re: Marathon County/Frontier Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Town of Frankfort would like to formally announce its support for the "Marathon County/Frontier" project to aid in the economic growth of the Town of Frankfort and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for the Town of Frankfort. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity in the Town of Frankfort. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for the Town of Frankfort to deliver a wide range of services to our residents. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize the Town of Frankfort and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The "Marathon County/Frontier" project in the Town of Frankfort will also improve our residents' quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. The Marathon County/Frontier Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service.

As the Clerk of the Town of Frankfort, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$50,000.00, if grant funding is awarded.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-302-5217 or at kswussow@hotmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Wussow
Clerk
Town of Frankfort

TOWN OF HARRISON – Marathon County

Ken Mach – Town Chairman

Randy Kloes – Town Supervisor
Scott Olson – Town Supervisor

March 9, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Re: Marathon County/Town of Harrison Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Town of Harrison would like to formally announce its support for the “Marathon County/Frontier Communications” project to aid in the economic growth of the Town of Harrison and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for the Town of Harrison. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity in the Town of Harrison. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for the Town of Harrison to deliver a wide range of services to our residents. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize the Town of Harrison and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The “Marathon County/Frontier Communications” project in the Town of Harrison will also improve our residents’ quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. The Marathon County/Frontier Communications Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service.

As the Town Supervisor of the Town of Harrison, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$15,000, if grant funding is awarded.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715.216.2956 or at rjkloes@yahoo.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy J Kloes

Randy Kloes
Town Supervisor
Town of Harrison

- c. **Existing broadband service.** The project only includes locations deemed “unserved” or “underserved” by the PSC. Approximately 88% of the locations impacted by the project are “unserved”.
- d. **Project impact.** The project will deploy fiber to the home facilities in portions of fourteen Frontier exchanges: Antigo, Athens, Birnamwood, Colby, Edgar, Hatley, Marathon City, Marshfield, Merrill, Schofield, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau Northwest, and Wausau. A total of 10,696 locations will be covered; 9,449 in unserved areas and 1,247 in underserved areas. The project will provide broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. Frontier participates in the Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program programs, offering credits for qualifying customers.
- e. **Scalability.** The project will provide broadband speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. Currently, that level of bandwidth and speed is unsurpassed as a general residential and small business offering. Construction of the project will put in place facilities that could be leveraged and expanded upon to deliver similar broadband service to adjoining areas and locations not included in this currently project.
- f. **Economic development.** The areas impacted by the projects are located relatively close to Wausau. This project will provide a very high level of broadband service to the area which will have several benefits for economic development in the area. The new service will make work from home and tele-commuting much more practical for people working in connection with businesses and establishments in Wausau. The high level of broadband service will be attractive to existing businesses that are relocating or expanding. All of these results will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic vitality of the project area.
- g. **Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.** Construction of this project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. In fact, construction of the project will position Frontier to consider expansion of the service into adjoining areas.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

- a. Frontier currently provides broadband service to about 92,000 customers in Wisconsin. Frontier and its affiliates have extensive organizational experience in successfully participating in federal and state funding initiatives in all 25 of the states they serve to expand and provide broadband service to unserved and

underserved communities. For example, Frontier affiliates were recipients of federal funds under the Connect America Fund Phase II broadband grant program to deploy broadband service to over 706,000 rural locations throughout its footprint including over 77,000 locations in Wisconsin. More recently, Frontier affiliates participated in the FCC's Rural Development Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") reverse auction and were awarded funding (for areas other than the Project area) that will enable it to bring FTTP and gigabit broadband service to 127,000K high-cost locations across eight states.

b. Frontier affiliates have also successfully participated in numerous state grant programs, including programs in New York, Minnesota, and California. For example, the New York Broadband Project Office (BPO) awarded Frontier a total of \$46M in grant funding to bring broadband service to over 19,000K locations. Similarly, Frontier participated in the Border-to-Border grant programs in Minnesota, which awarded Frontier \$3.4M in grants to construct middle mile and last mile facilities in rural areas of the state and in California, where Frontier was awarded \$17M through the California Advanced Services Fund to bring broadband service, including for some FTTP projects, to nearly 9,000 rural locations. Frontier has several additional FTTP projects pending approval in California.

c. The proposed project will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure which is offering broadband at the speeds that will be provided over the project's new facilities.

d. Frontier is well qualified financially to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. Frontier is a wholly owned subsidiary of Frontier Communications Parent Inc. ("Frontier Parent"), a corporation publicly traded on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "FYBR." Frontier Parent, through its local operating entities, provides broadband service in 25 states and has over 85 years of experience providing communications services. Frontier Parent's latest annual 10-K and 10-Q quarterly reports to the SEC are available at:

<https://investor.frontier.com/filings-and-financials/sec-filings/default.aspx>

Frontier has approximately \$2.5B of liquidity to help fund its fiber build plans.

Frontier is committed to disciplined balance sheet management with net leverage in the mid-threes. There are no debt maturities earlier than 2027.

e. Rural communities, like that of the Project area, generally have greater challenges in accessing health care due to distance, cost, lack of local health providers, and the absence of fully equipped medical facilities. The Project will open the door to greater access to connect with healthcare providers virtually through telehealth applications and services that typically require high capacity, symmetrical connections to function properly. The Project will provide the necessary level of connectivity for health care professionals to more quickly and easily share important information with patients and other providers. This will not

only save healthcare costs but also support overall better healthcare within the Project Area.

In addition, improved broadband access will allow community members to adopt new and valuable digital telemedicine devices including those that enable remote patient monitoring by medical professionals; thereby allowing them to identify and respond to issues in a timelier manner. Many telehealth devices also include advanced functionality that enable patients to establish monitoring and alerts for out of town caretakers; providing additional peace of mind to families and loved ones. Such functionality is particularly important in the Project Area because it contains no major medical facilities. Broadband access will enable local medical personnel, including doctors and dentists, to access the expertise of large medical facilities by utilizing online consultation of x-rays, test results, and other patient information over a secure network. In addition, rural health providers will be able to take advantage of electronic health record applications available in the cloud to reduce costs and maintain security. Thus, the Project can bring the latest medical technology to the Project Area.

f. The Project will make high-speed broadband available to a wider range of students, affording them more opportunities to participate in technology-based educational opportunities—both K-12 and higher education—through interactive classroom and distance learning experiences that rely on both fast upload and download speeds. It will also provide students access to a more diverse and comprehensive educational experience by opening a new world of virtual resources.

g. The Town of Ringle has committed to partnering with Frontier in this project by expediting the permit process and waiving permit fees.

h. Letters in support of the application attached.